

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-19 have been canceled. New claims 20-37 have been added.  
The application now includes only claims 20-37.

The claimed invention is based on the point of view of supplying power supply voltage mutually in the relation of three or more nodes mutually connected through a serial bus. Therefore, the features of the invention make it possible to ensure the relay of DC voltage applied through a serial bus, and prevent applying a DC voltage from other node to a physical layer.

In the prior action, all claims were previously rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,351,818 to Murai. The previous claims have now been canceled, and new claims 20-37 highlight the features noted above. These new claims are new and unobvious over Murai. Murai is not focused on supplying power supply voltage mutually in the relation of three or more nodes mutually connected via a serial bus. Further, Murai does not provide a mechanism to ensure the relay of DC voltage applied through a serial bus, and prevent applying a DC voltage from other node to a physical layer.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephone or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041 (Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson).

Respectfully submitted,



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Please associate this  
Application with  
Customer No. 30743